

5 What is claimed is:

1. A toner for developing latent electrostatic images, wherein said toner is prepared by:

(A) dissolving or dispersing a toner composition comprising:

10 (1) a binder resin which comprises a polyester resin reactive with at least active hydrogen,

(2) a coloring agent, and

(3) a releasing agent,

15 in an organic solvent to provide a toner composition solution or a toner composition dispersion,

(B) dispersing said toner composition solution or said toner composition dispersion in an aqueous solvent to prepare an aqueous dispersion,

(C) subjecting said aqueous dispersion to a reaction to prepare a toner mixture,

(D) removing said organic solvent from said toner mixture,

20 (E) optionally washing said toner mixture to prepare a washed toner,

(F) optionally drying said toner mixture or said washed toner to prepare a toner,

wherein said toner comprises a fluorine-atom-containing compound at a surface thereof, and satisfies a relationship of  $0.01 \leq F/C \leq 0.50$  with respect to the content (F) of fluorine atom and (C) of carbon atom, as measured by XPS.

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2. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said binder resin comprises a modified polyester resin and an unmodified polyester resin in a weight ratio of from 5/95 to 75/25.

30 3. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toner particles have a volume average particle diameter of from  $3\mu\text{m}$  to  $7\mu\text{m}$ .

4. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toner has a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) of a) a volume average particle diameter ( $D_v$ ) of the toner particles to b) a number average particle diameter ( $D_n$ ) thereof that is less than 1.25.

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5. The toner particles as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toner particles have a spherical degree of from 0.94 to 0.99.

40 6. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toner has a glass transition point ranging from  $40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $70^\circ\text{C}$ .

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7. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toner has a flow beginning temperature (Tfb) of from 80°C to 170°C.

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8. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion comprises fine particles.

9. The toner as claimed in claim 8, wherein said fine particles comprise resin particles with an average particle diameter of 5 nm to 500 nm.

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10. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reaction is an elongation reaction.

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11. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polyester resin comprises THF-soluble components, of which the molecular weight distribution is such that a molecular peak thereof is in the range of 1000 to 30000, THF-soluble components with a molecular weight of 30000 or more are present in an amount of 1wt% or more, and the average number molecular weight of said THF-soluble components is in the range of 2000 to 15000.

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12. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polyester resin comprises THF-soluble components, of which the molecular weight distribution is such that THF-soluble components with a molecular weight of 1000 or less are present in an amount of 0.1% to 5wt%.

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13. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polyester resin comprises THF-insoluble components in an amount of 1 to 15wt%.

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14. The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of removing said organic solvent from said toner mixture is carried out under conditions of at least heating and/or reduced pressure.

15. The toner according to claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises a wax.

16. A developer comprising the toner as claimed in claim 1.

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17. A toner bottle containing the toner as claimed in claim 1.

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18. A color image forming method comprising: developing electrostatic latent images formed on plural image bearing members with plural color developers each comprising a different color toner to form a different color toner image on each of the image bearing members, respectively; and transferring the color toner images onto a receiving material one by one upon application of pressure to form a full color image thereon,  
10 wherein at least one of the different color toners is a toner according to claim 1.

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19. The method of Claim 18, wherein all of the different color toners is a toner according to claim 1.

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20. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising: an image bearing member which bears an electrostatic latent image; a developing device which develops the latent image with a developer comprising a toner to form a toner image on the image bearing member; and a toner container containing the developer therein;  
wherein the toner is the toner according to claim 1.